



**Stamford Symphony
Presentation to Board of Representatives Fiscal Committee
April 6, 2021**

Upcoming Fiscal Year: 2021–2022 Season Plans

1. Concerts

(Schedule to be confirmed based on State reopening guidelines)

Five orchestral programs

- Saturday, November 13: live-streamed from Palace Theatre, program TBA
- Saturday, February 26: live at Palace Theatre, featuring Vince Giordano & The Nighthawks
- Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20: live at Palace Theatre, program to include Dvořák Cello Concerto with guest soloist Nicholas Canellakis
- Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10: live at Palace Theatre, program to include Bruch Violin Concerto with guest soloist Pinchas Zukerman
- Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8: live at Palace Theatre, program to include Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Additional concerts:

- Summer: Outdoor chamber music events, dates and venues TBD
- Saturday, October 2: Virtual Gala/Free Concert
- December: Free community holiday performances featuring Klezmer-tastic, two performances, venue TBD

2. Education and Community Programs

Expanded partnership with Stamford Public Schools

- Carnegie Hall's **Link Up** for all fourth graders, culminating concerts in February (to be confirmed)
- **Master Classes** with Symphony musicians for high school students
- **Interactive Concerts** at elementary and middle schools
- **UNIQUE Series** for special education students, in partnership with Concordia Conservatory Stamford, including interactive concerts for students and their families performed by Symphony musicians

Additional programs

- **MusicKids**, a free pre-concert program for children prior to Sunday afternoon concerts at Palace Theatre
- A new **Music and Wellness Program** currently being developed in partnership with Stamford Hospital, to include live concerts performed by Stamford Symphony musicians for patients, staff, and caregivers

- **Community Partnerships** with organizations including Project Music, Young Artists Philharmonic, and Intempo, with activities including music lessons, mentoring, and master classes

Current Fiscal Year: 2020–21 Season Accomplishments

1. New Music Director

Acclaimed conductor Michael Stern joined Stamford Symphony as Music Director at the start of the 2020–21 season, launching a new era of extraordinary music-making and a renewed commitment to community engagement.

2. Stamford Symphony Channel

Within days of announcing the cancellation of performances in March 2020, we had developed plans to launch the Stamford Symphony Channel, a new online platform that offers free access to exceptional programming for all residents of Stamford and surrounding communities, significantly increasing our audience and allowing us to offer solace during this challenging time

Highlights this season have included:

- Annual Fall Gala reimaged as a **Free Virtual Concert** for the community, honoring the heroic work of frontline workers throughout Fairfield County during the pandemic, presented live from Stamford Hospital and featuring performances by world-renowned violinist Pinchas Zukerman, cellist Amanda Forsyth, and pianist Dr. Michael Coady, Stamford Health's Chief of Cardiac Surgery
- Interactive **Online Premieres**, featuring backstage clips with Stamford Symphony musicians and thought-provoking historical and social commentary provided by Music Director Michael Stern
- Special **Holiday Performances** for New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day

3. Education Programming

In November 2020 we welcomed Nicolas Gonzalez as Community Engagement and Education Manager, a new full-time position reflecting the Symphony's commitment to serve all segments of the Stamford community with engaging programming in schools and community venues.

We developed a five-year comprehensive plan to expand and strengthen education and community programming to be launched in the 2021–22 season

4. Commitment to Education, Diversity and Inclusion

The Symphony has affirmed its commitment to embracing the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in everything we do, including Board development, artistic planning, education and community activities, and internal operations. To support that commitment, we have developed an action plan to develop our internal capacity for EDI and to help us understand how to apply these principles during a time of organizational growth. These activities are launching with a series of workshops in March 2021, involving Board members, staff, musicians, and artistic leadership.

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